

AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A steering wheel arrangement, the steering wheel arrangement ~~incorporating~~ comprising a fixed element-(20), the fixed element carrying a first annular bearing-(33), the annular bearing supporting a steering wheel (22) for rotation relative to the fixed element, the fixed element also carrying a second bearing-(38), the second bearing rotatably supporting a component to be connected to part of the steering column of a vehicle, ~~characterised in that the bearings are both~~ being retained[[,]] to the fixed element[[,]] ~~by means of a first resilient retaining element-(4), the first bearing being retained to the steering wheel by a second resilient retaining element~~ (41).

2. (currently amended) An arrangement according to Claim 1 wherein the fixed element-(2) has a housing part-(24) with an upper surface (25), the upper surface-(25) having at least two levels-(26,27), the outer periphery of the upper surface defining a wall-(28), the first bearing-(33) being mounted to that wall, the upper surface defining an opening-(29) having a side wall-(30), the second bearing-(38) being mounted to that side wall; wherein the first retaining element-(40) comprises a plate which lies over the upper surface, the plate having a part-(46) which is resiliently biased into contact with part of the first bearing and with part of the second bearing.

3. (currently amended) An arrangement according to Claim 2 wherein the plate has two arcuate sections ~~(45,46)~~ located to either side of an aperture ~~(43)~~, one arcuate section ~~(45¹)~~ being provided with retaining studs ~~(48)~~ to secure the plate to the fixed element, the other arcuate section ~~(46)~~ being resiliently connected to the first arcuate section and engaging both the first bearing ~~(33)~~ and the second bearing ~~(38)~~.

4. (currently amended) An arrangement according to Claim 3 wherein the first arcuate section ~~(45¹)~~ engages both the first bearing ~~(33)~~ and the second bearing ~~(38)~~.

5. (currently amended) An arrangement according to Claim 3 ~~or 4~~ wherein the arcuate sections ~~(45¹,46)~~ are interconnected by two relatively narrow interconnecting bridges ~~(44,45)~~.

6. (currently amended) An arrangement according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, wherein the second retaining element ~~(41)~~ is of annular form, the element carrying a plurality of radially inwardly directed resilient lugs ~~(53-56)~~ which engage the first bearing ~~(33)~~ on which the steering wheel is mounted, the second retaining element being secured to part of the steering wheel ~~(2)~~.

7. (currently amended) An arrangement according to Claim 6 wherein the second retaining ~~(41)~~ element is provided with a plurality of fixing studs ~~(59-62)~~, the fixing studs passing through corresponding apertures formed in part of the steering wheel ~~(2)~~.